

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 17637 010344Z

64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /010 W

----- 058308

R 010322Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3895

INFO AMCONSUL SAPPORO

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STADIS//////////

FOR EA/EX MR. SCARRITT AND EA/J MR. SHERMAN ONLY

FROM SHOESMITH

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, PDIP

SUBJ: RELOCATION OF SAPPORO CONSULATE

1. AT MY SUGGESTION, LARRY FARRAR HAS BEEN EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF RELOCATING OUR CONSULATE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICER'S RESIDENCE IN SAPPORO INTO MORE MODERN AND MORE SUITABLE QUARTERS. AS YOU KNOW, THE PRESENT BUILDINGS ARE OLD, DETERIORATING AND ONLY BARELY FUNCTIONAL. I BELIEVE THAT THE FBO TEAM WHICH VISITED JAPAN LAST SPRING FELT STRONGLY THAT THE PRESENT QUARTERS ARE INADEQUATE AND SUBSTANDARD.

2. RECENTLY FARRAR HAS DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH MAYOR ITAGAKI OF SAPPORO, EXPLORING SPECIFICALLY THE POSSIBILITY OF A SWAP OF THE PRESENT SITE (WHICH IS U.S. GOVERNMENT OWNED) FOR ANOTHER SITE, A CONSULATE BUILDING AND P.O. RESIDENCE AND, IDEALLY, SOME CASH RETURN. THE MAYOR EVIDENTLY HAS TAKEN A SYMPATHETIC AND ACTIVE INTEREST (OBVIOUSLY HE DESIRES TO HAVE US CONTINUE OUR PRESENCE IN SAPPORO) AND HAS OFFERED TO EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY WITH A LARGE TOKYO-BASED FIRM (UNNAMED) WITH OFFICES IN SAPPORO.

3. THROUGHOUT HIS DISCUSSIONS, OF COURSE, FARRAR HAS EMPHASIZED

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 17637 010344Z

THE TENTATIVE AND PRELIMINARY NATURE OF HIS INQUIRY. IN VIEW OF

THE MAYOR'S ACTIVE INTEREST, HOWEVER, FARRAR FEELS (AND I AGREE) THAT HE SHOULD NOT GO MUCH FURTHER WITHOUT SOME INDICATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER A SWAP ARRANGEMENT TO PROVIDE A NEW CONSULATE AND P.O. RESIDENCE IF A SERIOUS OFFER IS MADE WHICH IS TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE USG.

4. IF WE INTEND TO MAINTAIN A PRESENCE IN SAPPORO (AND YOU ARE AWARE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S AND MY STRONG CONVICITION THAT WE SHOULD), THEN I BELIEVE WE SHOULD LET FARRAR CONTINUE AN ACTIVE EXPLORATION OF THE POSSIBILITY HE HAS DISCUSSED WITH THE MAYOR. I BELIEVE THE CHANCES ARE BETTER THAN FAIR THAT AN ACCEPTABLE PROPOSAL COULD BE DEVELOPED. I WOULD, HOWEVER, APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS. IF YOU AGREE THAT FARRAR SHOULD CONTINUE ALONG THE ABOVE LINES, I WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY ADVICE OR GUIDANCE WE MIGHT GIVE HIM.

5. SINCE FARRAR ANTICIPATES THE MAYOR SOON WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM AGAIN, I HOPE YOU CAN LET ME HAVE YOUR THOUGHTS SOONEST.  
HODGSON

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